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TRAWDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council - - - - T. Leyland.

Health Committee

W. Kay (Chairman)

W. Barker (Vice Chairman)

J. Blackhurst (Resigned 28/9/70)

E. Driver.

A. R. T. Harrup.

H. T. Irving.

G. R. Jackson.

E. Keighley.

Mrs. M. I. F. Lachman.

T. Leyland.

R. Spencer.

A. Walker.

Clerk of the Council

William R. Fisher.


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. G. Holt, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

R. H. Short, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

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Council Offices,
Trawden Forest,
Colne.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen .

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Environmental Conditions of the Urban District for the year ending 31st December 1970. The layout follows the usual pattern and the contents include all the items requested by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The population of the District, which had increased considerably over the last two or three years, declined slightly in 1970 and is estimated to be 10 less at 2,010. It should be interesting to compare the estimated figures with the results of the recent Census when these are available, to see if any errors have arisen in the calculation of population figures since the previous Census was taken.

The incidence of infectious disease remains satisfactory, only 4 cases being notified during the year, all of them being measles. Now that an effective vaccine is available against the disease it is to be hoped that there will be even less infectious disease notified in future years.

I wish to thank the Committee for their interest in the work of the Health Department and Mr. Short for his good work in a multitude of duties during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant

P. G. Holt,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District (acres.)	...	...	...	...	...	6,815
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	2,114
Population (Census 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	1,951
Population (mid-1970 - Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	2,010
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	742
" " " " 1970	...	...	...	...	...	800
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£43,455
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£155

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. Being of only modest size there is a well developed community spirit and a high degree of self-help.

There is very little unemployment; indeed there is a daily influx of workers to the town from neighbouring districts. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are textile manufacture, agriculture, and light engineering.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births (Legitimate)	15	13	28
Live Births (Illegitimate)	-	1	1
	15	14	29

Live Births per 1,000 estimated population:

Crude Rate	14.4
Adjusted Rate (Comparability Factor - 1.26)	18.1
Still Births	Nil
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	Nil

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths (all causes)	13	12	25
Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	nil	nil
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year)	nil	nil	nil
Deaths of Infants (under 4 weeks)	nil	nil	nil
Deaths of Infants (under one week)	nil	nil	nil

Mortality Rates per 1,000 estimated population:

Crude Rate	12.4
Adjusted Rate (Comparability Factor - 0.92)	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	nil

Classification of Causes of Death during 1970.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach...	-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	6	2	8
Other forms of Heart Disease	-	1	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	4	7
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	1	1
Influenza	-	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	-	1	1
All other Accidents	1	-	1
	13	12	25

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1966 - 1970

Year	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths (all causes)	Maternal Mortality	Infant Mortality	
					Under 4 weeks	Under 1 year
1970	29	nil	25	nil	nil	nil
1969	25	nil	31	nil	nil	nil
1968	26	1	29	nil	nil	nil
1967	25	nil	31	nil	1	1
1966	25	1	29	nil	nil	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The main work of the health department concerns the control of infectious diseases and the environment in which we live - a service for which the Council is responsible.

The present section of the report relates to those health services which concern the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than the population as a whole. The majority of these services are the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council, which has delegated much of the day-to-day administration to the Divisional Health Committee (No.6) on which Trawden has a representative. Co-ordination of the services is facilitated by the fact that your Medical Officer of Health acts also as Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

National Health Service Act 1964. Part III.

1. Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children:

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics - Bank House, Albert Road, Colne.
 Child Welfare and Immunisation - Church Hall, Trawden
 (alternate Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.)
 - Hartley Hospital, Colne.
 (alternate Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.)

2. Domiciliary Midwifery - two midwives are resident in Colne.
3. Health Visiting - from Bank House, Colne.
4. Home Nursing - Trawden is served by a District Nursing Sister.
5. Home Help Service including night service.
6. Ambulance Service - Trawden is served from Nelson Ambulance Station. All vehicles are under radio control.
7. Mental Health - care supervision and after-care of the Mentally Ill. A junior training centre for mentally subnormal children is available at Nelson, and a hostel, with adjacent workshop, has been built at Colne for the employment of subnormal adults.
8. Prevention of Illness - care and after-care. This includes Health Education, convalescent care, prevention of Tuberculosis, Chiropody, and loan of nursing equipment.

National Assistance Act 1948 - Welfare Services.

1. Homes for the aged - there are five homes in the Division belonging to the Lancashire County Council; in addition, two private homes for the aged, which are registered and regularly inspected.
2. Temporary accommodation is provided by the County Council for cases of urgent need such as eviction, fire, flooding etc.
3. Handicapped persons - registers are kept so that all may be acquainted with and have the benefits of the help available. This includes occupational therapy, holiday schemes, and membership of one of the clubs, the nearest being at the British Legion Headquarters, Colne.
4. Section 47. No action was necessary during the year.

Education Act, 1944 - School Health Services.

The School Nurse is also the District Health Visitor and thus knows all the children from babyhood. She and the School Medical Officer visit the Trawden School regularly. In addition to the routine medical and dental inspections of children, various clinics, some attended by visiting specialists, are provided for the correction and treatment of certain defects.

Hospitals and Laboratory.

Hospital facilities for the Urban District are provided by the Burnley and District Hospital Management Committee.

Patients with infectious diseases who cannot be suitably cared for at home would go to Marsden Hospital.

Maternity cases are now admitted to the new Edith Watson Unit at Burnley.

Pathological specimens and food samples are examined at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Only 4 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year, all of which were measles.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified in the past five years is as follows:-

1970	...	...	4
1969	...	...	1
1968	...	...	5
1967	...	...	24
1966	...	...	8

In an area such as Trawden the great majority of the younger school children will all attend the school in the town, and so will not come into regular contact with infectious diseases endemic in the larger urban areas. But when an infection is introduced, there will be a sudden and all embracing epidemic, which only abates when the supply of contacts is exhausted.

For this reason we must not relax our aim to have every baby protected from diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, and tetanus (lock-jaw). A vaccine against measles is also available. The young mothers of today have never known the tragedies of diphtheria, and we hope that our children will not know that of poliomyelitis.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor or at child welfare centres.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was required during 1970.

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REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR

ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1970.

Dr. P.G. Holt,
Medical Officer of Health,
Trawden U. D. C.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the area for the year 1970.

Once again the circumstances prevalent in the local environment have been satisfactory with a very low incidence of infectious disease and a complete absence of food poisoning. This speaks well for the standard of hygiene and cleanliness practised by those responsible for the handling and sale of food in the shops, canteens and clubs in the area.

The routine work of the Health Department has continued satisfactorily during the year, and there are no items of particular importance to report.

I wish to express my thanks to you for your help and advice during the year, to the Health Committee for their interest and support, and to my colleagues on the staff of the Council whose ready co-operation is always greatly appreciated.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. SHORT.

Public Health Inspector.

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Public Supply.

The mains water for the Urban District is supplied by the North Calder Water Board, and is derived from springs on Boulsworth Hill.

A reservoir of 500,000 gallons capacity, constructed of reinforced concrete, is situated at 1046 A.O.D. at Pot Brinks Moor. This is up-to-date plant incorporating a pump house, treatment apparatus and control gear.

During the year 21 samples of water from the public supply were taken for Bacteriological Examination and 3 for Chemical Analysis. The supply is adequate, soft and of good quality. The fluoride content of the water is negligible.

No. of houses supplied	...	...	...	717
No. of business premises supplied	...	...	...	62
No. of places of worship supplied	...	...	...	7
<u>Hardness.</u>				
Temporary Hardness (removable by boiling)			p.p.m.	45
Permanent Hardness (after boiling)				8
Total Hardness				<u>53</u>

I am indebted to the North Calder Water Board for the above information.

Private Water Supplies.

102 houses and farms, which have no public mains within a reasonable distance, are supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewers of the District discharge into the Colne Corporation sewer at Cottontree, via a Lea Recorder, and treatment is carried out by Colne Corporation under agreement.

There are approximately $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles of sewers in the District.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious pollution of the rivers and streams in the District occurred during the year. The Lancashire River Authority are notified whenever pollution is observed or reported.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

58 properties are on the conservancy system, the majority of which are in outlying locations. The Housing Act 1969 now makes available substantial grants towards the cost of installing septic tanks where premises are situated remote from public sewers. Three houses were provided with septic tank drainage during the year, and further proposals have been received and are under consideration.

The number of waste-water-closets converted to fresh water closets was again disappointing. The obsolete and unhygienic W.W.C. still seems reluctant to depart from the scene.

Sanitary Accommodation at the end of 1970:-

Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	58
Waste-Water-Closets	...	...	...	...	...	110
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	883
Pail Closets converted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	4
Waste-Water-Closets converted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Septic Tanks provided during the year	...	...	...	...	...	3

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of refuse is carried out fortnightly from approximately 1,015 ashbins by Karrier Bantam side-loading vehicle.

Disposal is by tipping in a disused quarry at Winewall. Refuse tip fires have occurred from time to time, but these have been dealt with efficiently and promptly by the Lancashire County Fire Brigade, whose services are very much appreciated.

The salvage of waste paper has continued throughout the year and 22 tons 16½ cwt. were collected, which realised an income of £194.

A charge of 2/6 per bin is made for the collection of trade waste. The collection and disposal of bulky articles, such as unwanted furniture, is carried out free of charge from domestic premises.

Road gullies are cleansed twice yearly by direct labour.

The pail closets in the area, except a number in outlying locations are serviced weekly by a private contractor who uses equipment and transport provided by the Council.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Council own and maintain two modern Public Conveniences and one public urinal, and these are cleansed weekly. Public conveniences, utilising pail closets, are also maintained at Wycoller.

In common with most Local Authorities, Trawden U. D. C. has suffered the effects of vandalism, although damage to Public Conveniences has not been as severe as in some districts, and has again been mainly confined to broken windows and superficial damage to plumbing installations.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Inspection have been made of the shops and offices in the area and no legal action under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1936 has been necessary.

FACTORIES.

Factories Act 1961.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	10	18	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	10	18	-	-

There were no outworkers resident in the District.

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district	983	71
(b) Total no. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	40	-
(c) No. of (b) infested by - rats	4	-
- mice	36	-
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	8	4
(e) No. of (d) infested by - rats	2	-
- mice	-	-

Throughout the Trawden Urban District mice are now completely immune and resistant to Warfarin, and alpha-chloralose is used exclusively for their control. Warfarin continues to be used successfully against the brown rat.

Treatment of Sewers for Rats. Following the baiting of the sewers a very minor infestation was recorded. The poison bait used consisted of a ready mix of Warfarin '5', pinhead oatmeal, castor sugar, technical white oil, and a preservative (paranitrophenol). The baits were laid in muslin bags suspended in the sewer manholes.

DISINFESTATION.

No cases of serious infestation by insect pests have occurred requiring action by the Local Authority. Advice and assistance has been given, where sought, in minor cases, particularly in respect of cockroaches, which now seem to be the most common species of insect pest causing annoyance to householders.

HOUSING.

Housing conditions in the area continue to be generally good and although many of the houses are old and of the terrace type, the majority of them are well maintained and provided with modern amenities.

During the year 18 Standard Grants were approved under the Housing Acts, 1964 and 1969, bringing the total to 216 since the scheme commenced. This means that 27% of the houses in the urban district have been improved by grant aid since 1959. Two applications for Discretionary Grants have been submitted and approved, but one of these was subsequently withdrawn.

Statistics.

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	800
" " dwellinghouses inspected	...	...	...	...	176
" " houses closed	...	...	...	...	nil
" " " demolished	...	...	...	...	nil
" " back-to-back houses	...	...	...	...	14
" " other houses with no through ventilation	...	...	...	...	50

Standard Grants.

Applications submitted to Local Authority	...	...	...	18
" approved by " "	...	...	...	18
Work completed and grants paid	...	...	...	20

Local Authority Housing.

The number of houses owned by the Local Authority is 98. This includes 20 bungalows and 4 ground floor flats for old persons.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

No legal action was necessary under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

MILK SUPPLY.

Sampling.

Total number of samples taken for biological examination - 188

Results.

	Positive.	Negative.	Equivocal.
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-
(b) Brucellosis - Ring Test.	40	142	6
(c) " - Culture.	36	5	5

In the case of a positive Brucella result the milk from the cow is sent for heat treatment or the affected cow is removed from the herd. The producer is advised as to milking methods in order to prevent the spread of Brucella Abortus to the milk of the remaining cows in the herd. Producers have again proved most co-operative during the year, and have shown a keenness to work towards a brucella free milk supply.

ICE CREAM.

There are 7 premises registered for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Regular inspections have been made during the year. Two mobile ice-cream vendors from neighbouring areas trade in the district.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

The standard of cleanliness and food handling practice of the traders in the district is generally good. No action was found necessary under the Regulations.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

FOOD PREMISES.

The following are the food premises in the Urban District:-

Greengrocers and provision dealers	...	...	...	9
Fruiterers and wet fish shops	...	...	...	1
Meat Shops	...	...	...	2
Bakers and confectioners	...	...	...	2
Sweets, minerals etc.	...	...	...	1
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens etc.	...	...	...	5

MISCELLANEOUS.

There are no caravan or camping sites, no common lodging houses, no houses let in multiple occupation, and no offensive trades in the District.

